

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 271200Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8036

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4349

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PINS, SA

SUBJ: FAA SECTION 32 ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF : A. STATE 160975; B. STATE 140309; C. JIDDA 2165

D. STATE 68545

1. ON JULY 1 POL CHIEF RAISED SUBJECT OF FAA SECTION 32 WITH DIRECTOR OF WESTERN AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR NURI IBRAHIM, AND GAVE HIM RELEVANT PORTION OF ACT (PARAGRAPH 2 REF D).

2. OUR APPROACH WAS VERY LOW KEY AND IN CONTEXT THAT HEARINGS ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT NOW IN PROGRESS AND SUBJECT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS MIGHT THEREFORE ARISE IN COURSE OF THE HEARINGS.

3. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM'S REACTION WAS RESTRAINED BUT VERY NEGATIVE. SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE SAID HE HOPED SUBJECT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD NEVER ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH SAUDI ARABIA. IF IT DID HE WAS SURE OF A VERY STRONG REACTION FROM SAG LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING THE KING WHO WOULD SEE IT AS MEDDLING BY LEFT WING AMERICANS IN SAUDI ARABIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. AMB IBRAHIM SAID THAT HE DIDN'T SEE WHY THIS PROVISION

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OF THE ACT SHOULD RELATE TO SAUDI ARABIA IN ANY CASE

SINCE IT IS NOT A RECIPIENT OF US ASSISTANCE. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT SA DOES RECEIVE MINOR AMOUNTS OF GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING, HIS PERSONAL REACTION WAS THAT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD RENOUNCE THIS AID TO AVOID POSSIBLE INDIGNITY OF BEING ATTACKED BY UN-SCRUPULOUS, SENSATION-SEEKING POLITICIANS.

5. AMB IBRAHIM SAID THAT HE PREFERRED NOT TO CONSIDER OUR APPROACH TO HIM AS A FORMAL ONE SINCE THIS WOULD REQUIRE SURFACING AN ISSUE HE HOPED WOULD NEVER ARISE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE HIGHER OFFICIALS IN THE SAG AWARE OF THIS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT BY WAY OF PREPARING THE GROUND IN CASE SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD COME UP IN THE COURSE OF THE HEARINGS.

6. COMMENT: WE DOUBT IN FACT THAT SUBJECT WILL GO MUCH FURTHER THAN AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM.
AKINS

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NNN

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